

February 23, 2022

As a CT resident of Hartford who serves as a Board Member and Sanctuary Chairperson with the Mattabeseck Audubon Society of Middletown, I am writing in support of HB 5139. The proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model will provide much-needed legislation to reduce the illegal dumping of tires, as well as other hazardous household waste. Each year, the environment and residents of Connecticut pay for the high cost of illegal tire dumping. In my community illegal tire dumping is not only a blight, but also an environmental threat to human health through insect-breeding spaces that are also costly for the town to clean up. Drawing on successful tire EPR laws, we know that these systems are effective in reducing or eliminating tire dumping, creating new jobs, and saving taxpayers and municipalities money. State-run programs and tire tracking programs are costly and will not resolve illegal tire dumping, as demonstrated in numerous states throughout the country. The residents of Connecticut and our local environment pay a high price each time tires find their way into our rivers, forests, and public spaces. Support for HB 5139 will ensure fewer tires dumped in our environment, as well as fewer tires being burned out of state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rodrigo G. Pinto, Ph.D. on behalf of Mattabeseck Audubon Society

Hartford, CT and Middletown, CT